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Bowen, Louise Hadduck de Koven

The girl employed in hotels and restaurants

[Chicago]

[1912]

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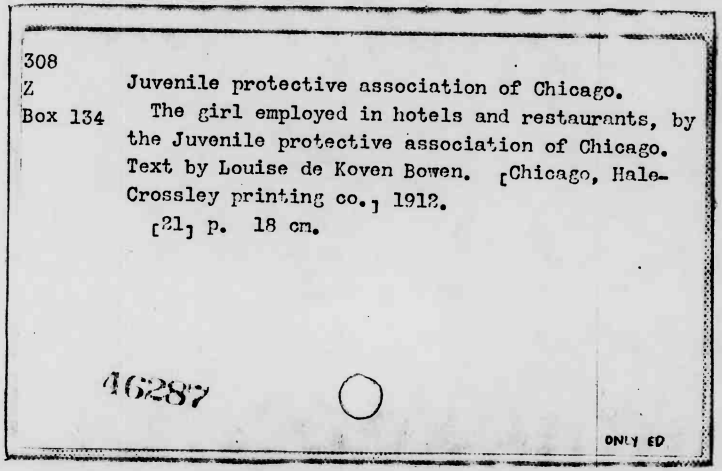

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The Girl Employed in Hotels and Restaurants

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Box 124

By the
Juvenile Protective Association
of Chicago

TEXT BY
LOUISE de KOVEN BOWEN
1912

The Girl Employed in Hotels and Restaurants

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Juvenile Protective Association
of Chicago

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LOUISE de KOVEN BOWEN
1912

Oct. 1, 1913

The Girl Employed in Hotels and Restaurants

The JUVENILE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION in the winter of 1912 made an investigation of 50 hotels with a view of ascertaining the temptations which surround many of the young foreign girls who work in hotels, and the treatment accorded them by hotel managers. The investigator visited:

Fifty Chicago Hotels Investigated

13 first class,
16 second class,
9 third class and
12 very low class hotels.

Work, wages, Food and Housing Studied

In all of these places the investigator endeavored to learn the conditions under which the girls worked, where they slept, what they ate, the wages they were paid, their hours of work and the temptations to which they were exposed.

Nearly All Uneducated Foreign Girls

It was found that in the first-class hotels the chambermaids were Irish and German, and in some of the low-class hotels they were colored or Americans of the "down and out" type, but in all hotels the kitchen and laundry work was done by foreign girls, mostly Polish. These girls do not speak English and therefore cannot go into domestic service, but in hotels they are chosen for the following reasons:

First, because they come of strong peasant stock and accomplish a large amount of work. Second, they are very thorough in what they do. Third, they are willing to take very low wages. Fourth, they are very submissive—that is, they never protest. Fifth, they are ignorant of the laws of this country and are easily imposed upon. Sixth, they never betray their superiors, no matter what they see.

Ignorance and Physical Strength the Only Qualifications—Intelligence Not Wanted

The wages paid vary with the nature of the work. Chambermaids and expert ironers are paid the largest salaries, while the scrubwomen are paid the lowest. The first-class hotels, of course, pay the highest wages and the low-class the smallest. The highest wages paid to a chambermaid in a first-class hotel amount to $18.00 a month and the lowest $16.00 a month, both including board and lodging. In the low-class hotels the highest wages paid are $16.00 a month and the lowest $14.00 a month, also including board and lodging. Without board and lodging the highest price paid to a chambermaid is $30.00 a month and the lowest $20.00 a month. The highest wages paid to a laundry or kitchen girl are $18.00 per month and the lowest $14.00 per month, both including board and lodging.

Wages

Forty to Seventy-five Cents a Day the Wages of a Good Chambermaid

The hotel managers trouble themselves very little about the food and sleeping accommodations provided for their employes. In many hotels the food served is not only poor but unwholesome. In some hotels the employes are obliged to eat the "comebacks" from the guests' meals. In others the food is served in such an unappetizing manner that the disgusted girls are not able to eat it. Many times they have no dining room and eat in a storeroom or cellar. Of the 50 hotels visited only six provided good food for their employes. Eight fed them fairly well while in the other places no particular attention was paid to the quality of the food. The following reports are typical:

Food—"Comebacks" Dining Room a Cellar

"The girl employes ate in a room just under the kitchen, which looked more like a storeroom than a dining room. It was directly opposite the boilers and the heat was intense. The room was dark and uninviting. The food was cold and poor. The tables were covered with old, greasy, blue oilcloth. The noise of the machinery, the dark entrance and the lack of fresh air were enough to take away appetite."

Room Overheated but Food Cold

"The dining room for the women employes was in a basement where odors of bygone meals mingled with the damp smell of the basement. Against the wall was a "hang" table and down the center of the room was another long table covered with greasy oilcloth. Around the table were rough wooden benches. Here waitresses, chambermaids, scrubwomen, pantry girls and other women employes were supposed to eat. On the stove was a pot of stew continually boiling. There was a bowl of cold boiled potatoes on the table and a long ladle in the stew, to which the women helped themselves. One cup of black coffee was allowed to each woman."

Sample Menu—Stew, Cold Potatoes and Black Coffee

The sleeping accommodations for the girls were most inadequate in the majority of the hotels visited. Weak and exhausted women, after a hard day's work, are crowded into poorly ventilated rooms. Most of these hotels violate the State Board of Health ordinance which requires 400 cubic feet of air for each occupant of a room. Many

No Consideration Given to Health or Housing

of the rooms assigned to these hotel employes never get any sunshine and very little light. A few have no windows. No wonder that in many cases the investigator described the girl employes as looking "as though they could never stand it all day," and added that "most of the girls are absolutely colorless, plainly showing lack of fresh air." Only in three hotels did the investigator report that the sleeping accommodations were good. In fourteen they were only fair, while in all of the others the girls complained of the crowded small rooms, of the poor ventilation and of the lack of bare necessities. In sixteen hotels from four to six girls slept in a small room originally designed for one bed. In one of these rooms the only furniture except the beds was a soap box. There was not even room for a chair. In most hotels two girls are made to sleep in the same bed. One girl may possess superior habits of cleanliness, yet no attention is paid to the protests she may make nor to her demands for privacy and decency. Out of the 50 hotels investigated, only in three did the women employes express satisfaction with the treatment received at the hands of the managers. In all the other places where the investigator interviewed the girls their reproaches and complaints were heartrending. In many instances the women were forced to work longer than the Ten Hour Law permits. This was especially true in the hotels where the employes were foreigners. They themselves did not know of the Illinois Ten Hour Law and they were warned not to speak to anyone about their work under penalty of dismissal. They were therefore afraid to tell the truth to the investigator. They could only murmur to her that they "worked very long hours." Many of the forewomen admitted that some of their employes often worked overtime without extra pay.

In Only Three Hotels Were Employees' Sleeping Rooms "Good"

A Bed and a Soap Box—No Room for a Chair

No Possibility of Privacy or Decency

Ten Hour Law Unknown to Employes

Almost without exception the girls interviewed in the various hotels complained of the excessive hard work and the constant fatigue. Many of them stated that they were "so tired after the day's work that they did not care where they slept if they could only secure a bed on which to throw themselves." Others confessed to being so tired that they "did not take the trouble to undress."

Excessive Hard Work and Constant Fatigue

The physical hardships which are endured by these girls are nothing compared to the moral dangers to which they are exposed. The girls who go to work in the hotels are for the most part decent and honest. They know that they will have to work hard and that their wages will be rather low, but they take the positions because they wish to earn an honest living. They are generally ignorant of the dangers in the hotels and yet, according to the testimony gathered by the investigator from the housekeepers, very few of these originally honest girls come safely through the dangers to which they are constantly exposed.

Girls Entering Hotel Life Practically All Moral, but Often Do Not Remain So

The method employed by the investigator when visiting a hotel was to say to the housekeeper that she wanted to find a position for a young girl in whom she was interested, and almost without exception the housekeeper would say, "I would not advise you to put a young girl in a hotel. There are too many temptations and the girls are not able to resist them." Following are some of the

"The Majority of Girls Who Work in Hotels Go Wrong Sooner or Later"

remarks made by the housekeepers: "Unless a girl pays no attention to the remarks of the traveling men she will certainly go wrong." "I know of no occupation a girl can follow where she has the temptations which surround her in a hotel." "The temptations in a hotel are more than one can imagine. I do not like to see a young girl led into temptation as she would be in a hotel." One elderly woman who had been a housekeeper for many years advised the investigator "not to get a position for a young girl in any place where she could not stay home at night." "The majority of girls who work in hotels go wrong sooner or later," said one housekeeper. Another said, "Now, take it from me and don't send any young girl to work in a hotel in this neighborhood." "If only some of the women who write for the magazines knew half of the awful temptations which surround girls in hotels they would have something real to write about."

"Home Influences Necessary to Right Living"

The majority of the managers of the hotels wink at the conduct of their guests and even connive at it. One housekeeper said that she knew for a positive fact that some of the chambermaids had been led into immorality by guests of the hotel. Another said, "When off duty a girl could come and go as she pleased. No one took any interest in her—no one cared whether or not she was immoral." Another said, "No attention is ever paid to any complaint in regard to the immorality of the employes." One chambermaid said in answer to a question put by the investigator, that the reason she had not complained to the manager of an outrageous insult she had received from one of the guests was "because I have two little children to support, and if we don't like the insults we get they'll tell us to clear out." In the majority of the hotels there seems to be almost a conspiracy to tempt the girl from the right path. In the first place, almost everything in her environment is bad. One housekeeper said that she "knew of many girls who met bad people in the hotel." Another said, "If the chambermaids are at all attractive they receive all kinds of invitations from guests." "The kitchen girls come in contact with the waiters, who do their utmost to spoil them." "Unless a girl makes up her mind to refuse every invitation she will almost surely go wrong." In many of the hotels there seems to be almost a premium put upon immorality. Not only is there no inducement to remain moral, but indeed rather the contrary. After a hard day's work when a girl's muscles are fatigued and her nerves tense she needs relaxation and rest to build her up for the next day's work. There is no opportunity for wholesome recreation or even rest.

Managers Consider It Bad Business to Criticise Conduct of Guests

Immorality Accepted As a Matter of Course

Environment Bad. Girl's Own Moral Strength Is the Only Restraint.

Some of the girls complain and protest against this injustice. Said one chambermaid, "If a girl is straight there is nothing for her but bitter drudgery and no pleasure at all." "If a girl is good and refuses to go out there is absolutely nothing for her to do." "There is nothing for a girl in a hotel but work and sleep."

No Possibility of Wholesome Recreation.

In some of the hotels the regulations almost drive the girl to an immoral life. In many hotels the employes come and go through a separate exit and many of these exits lead to dark alleys. Suspicious characters loiter in these places and the girl who might like to go somewhere in the evening is afraid to go out alone. She is obliged to seek the protection of an escort and oftentimes this escort is a man who has been persecut-

Hotel Regulations Add to the Problem.

ing her with his attentions. In many hotels the manager makes no attempt to prosecute the man employe who is responsible for the ruin of the girl employe. One decent girl in a hotel was found to be pregnant. The physician so advised the housekeeper and when the girl was told what was the matter she went to a physician and had an operation performed. She died at the Cook County Hospital in great agony. The manager of the hotel knew perfectly well the man who was responsible for this tragedy, but no action was taken. Another Polish girl, only fifteen years old, became pregnant. She was sent to the House of the Good Shepherd, and there her child was born. The bell boy, only sixteen years old, who was responsible for the affair, was allowed to disappear and no trace of him could be found. Many of these girls are perfectly innocent when they enter a hotel and the shortness of the period between the beginning of their service and the time of their downfall shows the terrible lack of moral standards in these places.

Burden of Immorality Borne Entirely by Girls.

The great grievance of the majority of the girls is the excessively hard work. Not only the scrubwomen, the kitchen girls and the laundry workers are overworked to the limit of their endurance, but in many cases even the chambermaids are overtaxed, as they often take care of thirty rooms. In one hotel the forewoman of the laundry admitted that the force was not nearly large enough for a hotel of that size and that the girls were therefore overworked. The bitter cry of all the workers is, "I am tired out all the time." "My back gets so tired." "I am so tired from backache that I can't stand up straight." "By bedtime I can scarcely stand."

Overwork and Constant Fatigue.

Recommendations

The free employment bureaus of the city established by the state should be adequately provided with investigators and workers who could see not only that the girls secure good positions, but who could follow them up and see that they were not overworked, also that they were adequately housed and properly fed. There should be some standard in regard to food and sleeping accommodations. It might also be a good thing for these employment bureaus to have social evenings for the girls, where they might find recreation, counsel and sympathetic friends.

Investigators for Employment Offices.

From the facts which have been gathered it may reasonably be concluded that a large proportion of girls go wrong in hotels first because of lack of wholesome recreation. Second, because of immoral surroundings. Third, because of their lonely condition and the indifference of people toward them, and, fourth, because the hard work leaves them so tired that they are willing to take anything that is offered. One chambermaid said to the investigator, "Oh, if the social workers would only make some plan to instruct the foreign-born girls about the awful holes they are going into when they take positions in hotels there might be something doing." We can but regret that young girls who come to the city take positions in hotels where there is no one to look after them. They are ignorant of our standards and are easily persuaded that judgment for a moral lapse is less severe in America than it is in the old country.

Need of Instruction.

Too late they find themselves disgraced and are forced to enter a disreputable life in order to support themselves. Some sort of a Registration Bureau should be formed in Chicago. To this Bureau all girls living in small towns and contemplating coming to Chicago could send their names and addresses. On their arrival in the city they should visit this Bureau, where they would be recommended to respectable boarding houses and furnished with a list of employment offices and other places where they might find work. From this Bureau their employment and their recreation should be supervised. Only by some such means can we hope to protect the young, untrained girl who comes to the city in search of work and for whose careless feet so many pitfalls are spread.

Registration Bureau.

Many factories and mercantile establishments employ social secretaries, or welfare secretaries, as they are sometimes called, whose duty it is to look after the physical and moral welfare of their employes. It would seem even more necessary to have welfare secretaries in hotels, which are not only places of employment, but where the girls spend much of their leisure time as well. Such secretaries would understand the life of the girls and their peculiar temptations, and would be able to offer them friendly help and sympathetic counsel for both leisure and work.

Social Service.

They would naturally know the opportunities for wholesome recreation afforded by the hotel neighborhood and could also connect the girls with educational institutions when possible. If the neighborhood were barren of clean and decent recreational facilities the social secretary might provide them and in many ways make life more possible for these overworked girls who have not as yet appealed to any philanthropy.

Waitresses in Restaurants

The life of a girl who takes a position as waitress in a restaurant is almost as hard as that of a girl who works in a hotel. An investigator from the Juvenile Protective Association visited 72 restaurants in Chicago and interviewed girls in each of these places with a view of finding out the number of hours they worked, the wages paid them, the treatment accorded them by employers and customers, and the temptations by which they were surrounded.

Seventy-two Restaurants Visited.

The majority of the girls who become waitresses have had about the same amount of schooling as the average working woman. They usually live in furnished rooms, as they get their meals in the restaurants where they are employed. They go into the work for the following reasons: It does not require any skill; they get their meals away from home; the work has a certain amount of excitement and brings them in contact with a large number of people. The following are some of the replies to the question, "Why did you become a waitress?"

Food Principal Inducement.

"Didn't know anything but waiting on table."

"The only thing I could do and be sure of three meals a day in addition to my wages."

"Only thing I could get."

"The only nice thing about work of this kind is that I get all kinds of invitations to go out and that helps some."

There is much complaint that the work is very hard and that the girls can only stand it for a few years. The carrying of heavy trays and constant standing and walking causes ill health and trou-

Ill Health Frequent.

ble with the feet. Only comparatively few of the restaurants employing women as waitresses serve liquor to patrons. The waitresses who work in restaurants where liquor is sold are regarded as low-class by the other waitresses, and the excuse given by the former is that they receive larger tips where liquor is sold. The waitress does not require an education—not even as much training as a girl employed in domestic service, who must at least know the regular routine of housework and cooking. The manager often regards a pretty girl in the light of an attraction for his restaurant. In one place the pretty girls were put downstairs, where the men were served, and the homely girls were put upstairs, in the room reserved for women customers.

Girl Waitresses Seldom Employed Where Liquor Is Sold.

Education Not Essential. Good Looks the Best Qualification.

Many of the girls come from homes where they have had no training; others have left their homes because they could not "get on" with their families; others because they lived in the country and wanted to come to the city where they felt there would be more recreation. Many of these girls, coming to know their own limitations and having no hope for a bright future, realize that they can expect but little in the way of wages and are therefore bent on having as good a time as possible while their youth and attractiveness lasts. When many girls, as the investigator discovered, reach this point of view, it is no wonder that so many of them yield readily to temptation.

Majority of Girls Do Not Live at Home.

Owing to the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court affirming the Illinois ten-hour law for women, the restaurants are compelled by law not to work their women employes longer than ten hours **a day.** The waitresses are divided into steady workers—that is those who work all day and are called "three-meal" girls, and those who work for part of the day and are called "one" or "two-meal" girls. Out of the 72 restaurants investigated it was found that 12 disregarded the ten-hour law. One worked its women employes 13 hours, five worked them 12 hours, two worked them 11 hours and four worked them 10½ hours. Thirty-four restaurants where steady workers were employed obeyed the ten-hour law. Twenty-seven of these gave their employes three hours off every afternoon, usually from 2 to 5 o'clock. The usual working hours are from 7 a. m. to 2 p. m. and from 5 p. m. to 8 p. m. The waitresses are therefore away from their homes from about 6 in the morning until 9 in the evening, allowing an hour to go to and from their work. It may readily be seen, therefore, what a very long and fatiguing day they have and how little opportunity it gives them for recreation or for the care of their person or clothes.

Ten-hour Law Frequently Disregarded.

The greatest number of hours worked by these "full time" waitresses was found to be 13, the lowest 6. In 16 restaurants they were obliged to work on Sundays. In one place they worked every other Sunday and in another half a day on Sunday. Of the 72 restaurants investigated 28 employed "part time" workers, or "one-meal" girls. Three restaurants employed girls five hours a day. In four the girls worked four and a half hours a day. Fifteen demanded five hours' work. Six took three and a half of the waitresses' time. The longest period worked by these "part time" workers was five hours and the shortest three and a half hours.

"Full Time," 6 to 13 Hours.

"Part Time," 5 to 3½ Hours.

The most noticeable fact in connection with the living conditions of these girls is the large number with-

out homes. A large proportion of the waitresses who do live at home are engaged as "one-meal" girs. In many cases they are married women and when their children are at school and their husbands away at work they use the time to earn some money for themselves. Many of the managers say that their waitresses belong to this class of women. One mother who was working as a "rush hour" waitress was in the habit of leaving her baby at home on a folded quilt in the bathtub.

Many "One-Meal" Girls Married Women.

In regard to wages it was found that out of the 72 restaurants the steady workers were paid as follows:

Wages of Steady Workers.

1 restaurant paid its girls $5.00 per week.
23 restaurants paid their girls $6.00 per week.
1 restaurant paid its girls $6.50 per week.
36 restaurants paid their girls $7.00 per week.
8 restaurants paid their girls $8.00 per week.
1 restaurant paid its girls $8.50 per week.
2 restaurants paid their girls $9.00 per week.

Of the wages paid to "part-time" workers it was found that

Wages of "Part-Time" Workers.

6 restaurants paid their girls $3.50 per week.
4 restaurants paid their girls $3.75 per week.
10 restaurants paid their girls $3.90 per week.
6 restaurants paid their girls $4.00 per week.
2 restaurants paid their girls $5.00 per week.

In most of these places there are few or no tips.

Ninety Per Cent Not Satisfied.

Ninety per cent of the waitresses when asked about their work complained about one thing or another, the chief complaint being bad health brought about from being on their feet too long. Then came complaints of bad treatment by the public and following are some of the remarks: "People think they can say almost anything to a waitress." "Take any life but that of a waitress; they certainly get some hard knocks." "There is more to contend with in the life of a waitress than hard work." The other ten per cent who did not complain said that the managers treated them decently, or that they belonged to the Union, or that the hours of work were not longer than six or eight hours. The ideas of the better class of waitresses may be learned from their remarks to the investigator. One girl said, "If I took all the men said to me the way they meant it I wouldn't be here long." Another said she would rather not take the tips than have to listen to the remarks of the young men who gave them.

Waitresses in a restaurant are apt to become "bold" in a short time, as can be seen by the remarks of the girls who evidently supplement their wages with the help of what they call their "gentleman friend," such as the following: "If I did not have a man I couldn't get along on my wages." "Some of the girls bat around and make nice money in other ways. I don't blame them, for they have to live." The experiences told the investigator are even more illuminating. One girl said, "A man who came to my restaurant asked me if I would not prefer to go to another position, where I would have more time and could wear pretty clothes." Another one said, "If I accepted all the invitations I get I wouldn't have time to sleep or eat." "Some of the girls never come back for the money that is owing them after accepting one of these invitations." The investigator saw two young fellows who were served by a pretty girl trying to flirt with her. Before they left one of the men handed the girl a bill and said something. She shook her head and her face turned scarlet and the investigator heard the man say, "Oh, well, if you feel that

The "Gentleman" Friend.

way about it." Another said that a well-to-do business man gave her to understand that if she wanted a good time he would see to it that she had it. In another place the investigator saw a man put his arm around a young waitress in a suggestive manner. She looked appealingly at the manager, but no protest was made.

Girls Fill Two Positions.

Among the part time workers there are many who do something else besides serving as waitresses. Some study in the evening, either music, stenography or telephone operating. A few fill two positions as waitresses. This arrangement is a remnant of the time when steady waitresses were expected to work twelve and fourteen hours a day. By working in one place for dinner and another for luncheon they are able to obtain a few hours in between these two meals for themselves. They make more money working in two different places. For instance, one manager would pay $3.90 a week for the luncheon hour and the same for the supper hour, while a girl working in one place for both these meals would receive only $6.00. Then, again, working at two places in one day breaks the monotony of the long day's work. Where the waitress is working at something else, as when she is practicing stenography in the evening, she is away from home the entire day and evening. Those girls who are not married and do not live at home, who work for only part of the day, have a hard time. One girl when asked how she managed to live said, "I live on $3.90? Well, I don't; and I'm not going to kill myself standing on my feet ten hours a day even to earn more."

How One Girl Became a Prostitute.

One young girl had begun work at the age of fourteen as a cash girl. She had had very little schooling and consequently was not promoted in the department store where she worked, although she remained with the firm for four years. One day while talking with some waitresses who were shopping at the counter behind which she was temporarily serving, she was led to believe that she could better herself by securing a place as waitress. She took such a position, working between the hours of 11 and 2 and 6 and 9 p. m. For this work she received $6.00 a week, and as this was the sum she had been earning in the department store, where she had worked from 8 in the morning until 6 at night she felt that she was bettering herself, as she now had much more leisure. Her money, as before, had to be turned into the family exchequer and she soon fell into the habit of staying downtown during her "off" hours instead of going home, as she could not afford the car fare. She strolled about the streets day after day, looking into the shop windows, but she had nothing to spend and after the novelty of having so much leisure wore off she found this method of spending her time very stupid. An unscrupulous head waiter in the place where she was employed often invited her to go to the theater with him after her hard day's work was over, and he finally succeeded in accomplishing her ruin. From this on it was only a step to accepting the advances from men who patronized the restaurant where she worked. She continued to give her mother her pay envelope unopened, but the extra money which she earned in an illicit manner she kept for herself. It was not long before her mother's suspicions were aroused, and after watching the girl she soon found out her mode of life. Reproaches followed and the girl, feeling her independence and resenting her mother's interference, left her home and soon drifted into the ranks of the professional prostitute.

Rest Room to Be Provided for Waitresses.

From the investigation of these waitresses it would appear that the girls are off in the afternoon between the hours of 2 and 5 o'clock. If they remain in the restaurant where they work they cannot rest, as they are expected to do

some kind of work; it is not always waiting, but cleaning up, or something of the kind. Many times they are so tired that they put pads on the tables and lie on them. It is too far for them to go to their homes, as they cannot afford the car fare and an hour or more is consumed in going and coming. If they go on the streets they get little good from their walk, for at the best they go shopping, or look into the shop windows or go into nickel shows if they can find someone to invite them. Many young men loiter outside the restaurants to pick up an acquaintance with the waitresses during their leisure time. It is therefore absolutely necessary that some place be provided where these girls can rest for the three hours they are "off" duty. This is to be accomplished by the Junior League of Chicago who are going to establish such a room, provide it with a matron and fit it up with couches, etc., where the girls can rest and read or sew as they may desire. In time classes in domestic science, sewing or other similar subjects may be formed for the girls who care for them. The Waitresses' Union, which maintains a small room in the Crilly Building, is ready to co-operate in the larger plan. The Union would regulate for its members, not only the matter of hours and wages, but it would protect them from insults. If publicity could be given to the improper attentions which the girls receive, evil men would doubtless be more careful in their treatment of waitresses and public opinion would in time become a natural safeguard and protection.

Tips Should Be Abolished.

The giving of tips should be abolished because of their pernicious effect. A young girl who under any other circumtsances would not dream of accepting money from a man will accept it in the guise of a tip. In the hands of a vicious man this tip establishes between him and the girl a relation of subserviency and patronage which may easily be made the beginning of improper attentions. The most conscientious girl, dependent upon tips to eke out her slender wage, finds it difficult to determine just where the line of propriety is crossed. Thus, in addition to the other dangers surrounding the girls employed in hotels and restaurants, they encounter that lack of respect which curiously attaches itself to one who accepts a gratuity.

Rest and Comfort Possible Through Illicit Channels Only

The entire investigation revealed once more the hideous risks of the excessively fatigued and overworked girl who is able to obtain the rest and comfort she craves only through illicit channels. All such testimony reveals the dangers in which many young girls are placed. The same kind-hearted people who would quickly gather in great concern around the victim of a street accident, carelessly eat food placed before them by a frail girl almost fainting with fatigue or heedlessly walk through a hotel corridor lately scrubbed by a Polish woman who has spent ten hours upon her hands and knees. They do not in the least realize that the loss of vitality and life itself in the latter cases, is quite as harrowing as in the former. Only when the public learns to know the effects of protracted labor upon women engaged in hotels and restaurants, will adequate measures be taken for their relief. This pamphlet is issued in the hope that its publication may hasten the day when help will come for these overburdened girls.

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